



NOT FOR REPRODUCTION OR USE WITHOUT PERMISSION

THE NEW JERSEY
ITALIAN AND ITALIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE
COMMISSION



PILOT CURRICULUM PROGRAM PHASE II: 2005-2006
Italian Heritage Curriculum: "The Universality of Italian Heritage"

Unit Five: Second & Third Grades

"Italian Renaissance Artists"

Grades 2-3

Purpose:

The students will be able to:

1. Recognize several major Italian Renaissance artists.
2. Appreciate the artists' works.
3. Explain why these artists are known as "masters" and why their works had such an impact on history.

The time required for this lesson plan is four class periods.

Materials:

- World map or globe
- Access to the internet
- Access to a library
- Hardening modeling clay
- Watercolors and brushes
- White construction paper
- Crayons and markers
- Writing paper
- Renaissance music
- Copies of artists' biographies
- Copies of coloring pages
- Masking tape
- Several large piece of presentation foam board
- Drop cloth
- Toothpicks

Theme:

The Italian Renaissance was a vast sociological movement during the 15th and 16th century that encompassed significant achievements in the fields of arts, culture, literature, politics and science. It was a "rebirth" of the classical (Greco-Roman) ideas of art, culture and philosophy, which affected all of Europe, and eventually, all of global society. During this time, which began in Italy, but spread throughout Europe, many advances were made during this period in the refinement of painting and sculpture as an art form. Four of the greatest Italian Renaissance artists were Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, Raphael and Donatello.

In this lesson plan, students will be introduced to these Italian Renaissance masters through the cartoon "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" which have characters of the same names. The lesson starts with the cartoon turtles, then introduces the Italian masters and their works to the students in four distinct lessons. Students will examine Leonardo da Vinci and focus on a study of one of his most famous paintings, the *Mona Lisa*. They will then explore the works of Michelangelo, with an emphasis on his paintings in the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican. Next, they will examine Donatello and his sculpture *David, today found in the Italian city of Florence*. Finally, students will study Raphael and his painting masterpiece, *St. George Fighting the Dragon*.

NOT FOR REPRODUCTION OR USE WITHOUT PERMISSION

For specific information on the Renaissance and the four master artists studied in the lesson plan, students and teachers are directed to websites provided in the lesson plan.:

- Background information on the Renaissance:
- Famous Paintings for Students:
- Biography of Leonardo da Vinci:
- Exploring Leonardo da Vinci's Works:
- Biography on Da Vinci for Children:
- Biography of Raffaello Sanzio "Raphael":
- Biography on Raphael for Children:

Coloring page for Procedures:

- Biography of Donato di Niccolo di Betto Bardi "Donatello":
- Biography on Donatello for Children:
- Biography on Michelangelo Buonarroti:
- Biography on Michelangelo for Children:

- Information on the "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles":
 - Background information --
 - Coloring Pages --

Activities:

- I. Ask the students if they are familiar with the "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles".

- II. Ask the students to give you the names of the Turtles:
 - a. Leonardo, Raphael, Donatello, Michelangelo

- III. If they are unable to name them, name the turtles.
 - a. You may want to show them some pictures of the Turtles that you may download from the websites, as you give them a little background information.

- IV. Explain to the students that these are also the names of very famous Italian Renaissance artists.

- V. Explain to the students what the Renaissance period was and point out Italy on world map or globe.

- VI. Explain to the students that they will be learning about these artists and their famous works of art.

NOT FOR REPRODUCTION OR USE WITHOUT PERMISSION

For VII, VIII, IX, X .Use the background resources and follow the specific prompts and detailed guided questions provided in the lesson plan to engage in meaningful group discussion and dialogue. For the following artists:

- VII. **Exploring Leonardo da Vinci:**
Provide students the appropriate background history on Leonardo.
- VIII. **Exploring Michelangelo Buonarroti:**
background history on Michelangelo.
- IX. **Exploring Donatello:**
background history on Donatello.
- X. **Exploring Raphael**
background history on Raphael.